By the King.

A Proclamation for reſtraint of killing, dreſsing, and eating of Fleſh in Lent, or on Fiſh-dayes appointed by the Law, to bee hereafter obſerued by all ſorts of people.

WHereas diuers good Lawes and Statutes haue heretofore, with great care and prouidence, been made and enacted for the due obſeruation of Lent, and other dayes appointed for Fiſh-dayes, aſwell for the ſparing and increaſe of Fleſh victuall, as for the maintenance of the Naute and ſhipping of this Realme, by the encouragement of Fiſhermen to goe to the Seas for the taking of Fiſh, which Lawes and politique Conſtitutions, haue from time to time been ſeconded and quickened by ſundry Proclamations, and other Actes and Ordinances of State in the times of Our Royall Predeceſſors; And Whereas, notwithſtanding ſo many good proviſions heretofore had, and made in that kinde, Wee haue obſerued, that the inordinate liberty vſually taken by all ſorts of people, to kill, dreſſe, and eate Fleſh in the Lent ſeaſon, and on other dayes and times prohibited, is become ſo inueterate an euill, that it will require more then ordinary care to ſuppreſſe the ſame;

Wee therefore, much affecting the reformation of ſo great and growing an euill, Which is ſo great an enemy to the plentie of this Our Kingdome, Haue thought fit thus timely (the better to take away all pretences of excuſe) to expreſſe Our Selfe, and Our Royall Commandement in this behalfe, Whereof, Without future declaration of Our pleaſure in this kinde, Wee ſhall expect, and doe require from all Our louing Subiects, that due notice bee taken, and that a ſtrict and continued obedience and conformity bee yeelded thereunto, both for the preſent, and in all ſucceeding times.

And therefore Wee doe ſtraitly charge and command all and euery perſon and perſons whatſoeuer, to Whom it may appertaine, carefully to prouide and ſee, that theſe Orders following may bee duely obſerued and put in execution, vpon paine of Our high diſpleaſure, and ſuch penalties as by the Lawes of this Our Realme may bee inflicted vpon the Offenders, for their contempt or neglect of Us and Our Lawes, Whereof Wee ſhall ſhew Our Selfe moſt ſenſible.

And firſt, Whereas Wee finde, that the chiefeſt cauſe of theſe diſorders hath growen from the Licences that haue beene granted to Butchers, to kill, and vtter Fleſh contrary to Law, and that by Our Lawes, no Maior, Juſtice of Peace, or other perſon of what degree or qualitie ſoeuer, can grant any Licence in this kinde; And that the Lords, and others of Our Prime

Counsell, doe by Our direction forbeare to grant the same, or giue way thereunto; Our will and pleasure is, vpon the penalties prouided by Law, and such further punishment to bee inflicted vpon the offenders, as shall be thought meet, that no such Licence shall bee granted for the killing, or vttering of Flesh; And that no Butcher, or other person whatsoeuer, doe by colour thereof, kill, vtter, or put to sale any Flesh contrary to the Lawes established and prouided in that behalfe.

And for the auoiding of such inconueniences hereafter, Our will and pleasure is, that the Lord Maior of our Citie of London, and euery other Officer and Justice of Peace, shall call before them, and send for any of the seruants of any Inholders, Victuallers, Cookes, Alehousekeepers, Tauerners, and keepers of Ordinary tables, and such others that vtter Victuals, and to examine them vpon their corporall Oathes, what Flesh is, or hath been during the Lent season, or other dayes prohibited by the Law, dressed, killed, vttered, or eaten in their houses, which if they shall refuse to doe, then to commit to prison the said seruants so refusing vpon their oathes to declare the trueth.

That the Lord Maior shall also yeerely before Lent, or at the beginning thereof, cause all Inholders, keepers of Ordinary tables, Victuallers, Alehousekeepers, and Tauerners within the Citie and Liberties thereof, to appeare before him, or such persons as hee shall appoint meete for that purpose; And shall take Recognizances with sufficient Sureties of euery of them in good summes of money, (viz.) One hundred pounds of the Principall, and their sureties thirty pounds apiece, to Our vse, not to dresse any Flesh in their houses in the Lent time, or at any times prohibited, for any respect, nor suffer it to bee eaten contrary to Law. The like Recognizance with Sureties, shall bee taken of the like parties vpon like penalties, by the Justices of Peace of Our Citie of Westminster, and the Liberties thereof; and euery of the said Recognizances to be certified into Our Exchequer.

And for the Butchers and others that come with Victuall or Flesh out of the Countrey into the Citie, Our pleasure is, That the Lord Maior shall cause certaine persons to watch at the Gates and other like places in the Suburbs, where Flesh may be brought, to view & search, and to intercept the same: And if any of those Watchmen shall be found negligent and corrupt in his Charge, then he to be committed to prison during the Whole Lent.

And to the end that Fishermen may imploy themselues to Sea with better incouragement then heretofore, and that the Fishmongers may furnish themselues with such store from time to time hereafter, as shall bee expedient, as well for the prouision of the Citie, as for selling the same at reasonable rates, We will that they take notice of this Our commandement and constant resolution for obseruance of Lent, and Fish-dayes, both now and hereafter, as by Law is required.

And furthermore, as We thinke it fit, that euery man should be a rule of order and abstinence in his owne house, aswell in respect of the publique, as of his priuate ease and benefit: So We straitly charge and command all Inholders, keepers of Ordinary tables, Victuallers, Alehousekeepers, and Tauerners, not to make any Supper for any person or persons whatsoeuer, vpon Friday nights, either in Lent, or out of Lent, nor to suffer any meate to bee then dressed, vttered, sold, or eaten in their houses, vpon paine of such punishment, as is due to those that shall contemne Our Royall pleasure and Commandement.

And forasmuch as vpon further aduice and consideration had, that the restraint of killing and dressing of Flesh is no sufficient remedy for the mischiefe, vnlesse there bee better care also taken to suppresse the vnlawfull and inordinate eating of Flesh in the time of Lent, and on other dayes and times prohibited, wherewith Our Subiects haue accustomed themselues, rather for delicacie then for necessitie. It is therefore Our Royall will and pleasure

by ſtraitly prohibit and forbid all Our Subiects, of what degree or quality ſoeuer within this Realme, to eate any manner of Fleſh in the time of Lent, or on other dayes now vſually obſerued as Fiſh dayes, without a ſpeciall Licence firſt obtained from the Biſhop of the Dioceſſe, or ſuch other, as by the Law haue power to giue Licence in that behalfe, according to Our Lawes in that caſe prouided, (which Wee Will and command ſhall bee ſparingly granted, and in caſes of neceſſity onely,) vpon paine of Our high diſpleaſure, and to be proceeded againſt, by Our Attourney Generall in Our Court of Starre Chamber, as contemners of Our Royall Commandement, And vpon ſuch further penalties, as by the Lawes and Statutes of Our Realme may be inflicted vpon thoſe that ſhall wilfully offend in this kinde.

And as theſe Orders are to be executed in Our Citie of London, and places neere to the ſame, ſo it is Our expreſſe pleaſure and commandement, That Our Juſtices of Peace in all Shires within their Rule, and all other Maiors, Bayliffes and chiefe Officers in Townes Corporate, or in any Liberties within their precincts, ſhall cauſe the ſame to be obſerued and performed in like maner; and that no maner of Toleration, Fauour, or Conniuencie be vſed by any Juſtice of Peace, or other Officer, contrary to the true meaning of this Our Proclamation, as both they that ſhal preſume wittingly ſo to tolerate the offence, as alſo the partie himſelfe offending, Will anſwere the ſame at their vttermoſt perils; Our Commandement being, That Our Lawes in this caſe ſhall be hereafter ſeuerely executed vpon all Offenders whatſoeuer:

Further charging and commanding the Lord Maior of Our Citie of London, the Juſtices of Aſſiſe in their ſeuerall Circuites, the Maiors & the chiefe Officers of all other Cities and Townes Corporate, Juſtices of Peace, Lords of Liberties, and all other Officers and Miniſters within the ſeuerall Counties of this Our Realme, that they and euery of them fully obey this Our pleaſure, and cauſe and compell the ſame to bee obeyed and executed by others, as they will anſwere the contrary at their vttermoſt perils.

And for the due execution of the premiſſes in all other the Counties of this Our Realme, aſwel as in Our Cities of London and Weſtminſter, Wee doe hereby ſtraitly charge and commaund all Our Juſtices of Peace within the ſame Counties, aſwell within Liberties as without, that yeerely, and euery yeere hereafter before Lent, they cauſe to come and appeare before them all Inholders, Cooks, Tauerners, Alehouſe keepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers whatſoeuer, & to require & take of them to Our vſe, ſeuerall Recognizances, with Sureties for obſeruation of the premiſſes, (viz) The Principals in tenne pounds, and their two Sureties in fiue pounds apiece: And if they ſhall refuſe or neglect to enter into ſuch Recognizances, then the ſaid Juſtices ſhall ſuppreſſe ſuch perſons ſo refuſing, from Victualling any more, and ſhall alſo cauſe them forthwith to become bound by Recognizance with Sureties to Our vſe, (viz.) The Principals in twenty pounds, and their two Sureties in tenne pounds apiece, not to victuall, or ſell Beere or Ale from thenceforth; which if they ſhall refuſe to doe, then the ſaid Juſtices to commit to priſon all ſuch perſons ſo refuſing to enter into ſuch Recognizances, vntill they ſhall ſubmit themſelues, and become bound, as aforeſayd. And further, for all ſuch Inholders, Cookes, Tauerners, Alehouſe-keepers, Butchers, and other Victuallers, as ſhall not appeare before the ſaid Juſtices, as aforeſaid, That they may immediatly ſend forth their warrants, or grant Proceſſe againſt them, and euery of them ſo making default, to appeare and anſwere their contempt, at the next generall Seſſions of the Peace.

And further, for the more due puniſhment of Inholders, keepers of Ordinary tables, Cookes, Butchers, Victuallers, Alehouſe-keepers, Tauerners, and ſuch like, who ſhall forfeit their Recognizances by killing or dreſſing of Fleſh, or ſuffering it to bee eaten in their houſes in the Lent

time; and other Fish-dayes; And to the end that the same may bee aswell taken in due forme of Law, as duely certified into Our Exchequer, wee doe will and require all Justices of Peace, aswell within Liberties as without, That at such times as they shall meete within their seuerall Diuisions, for the taking of such Recognizances, that they giue notice to the Clerkes of the Peace, or their Deputies, to attend them for that purpose; Of whom wee will require a strict account for the legall taking and returning of the same Recognizances into Our sayd Exchequer.

And because these directions are for better obseruation of Order, and due keeping of the Lent, according to Our Lawes, which Our Ministers and Officers are to see executed of office, without making the same grieuous to Our people, by taking of excessiue Fees for their entring into Recognizances to obserue these orders, whereof many haue complained: wee therefore straitly charge and command, That no Towne-Clerke, Clerke of the Peace, nor other Officer, shall, or doe presume to demand, or take any Fee or reward, aboue the summe of twelue pence, for taking any such Recognizances, as aforesayd, nor shall giue any Fee or Reward for returning the same into Our Exchequer.

And lastly, for that the Fishmongers (vpon the obseruation of the aforesaid Orders) may perhaps take occasion thereby to inhance the prices aswell of Fresh, as of Sea-Fish, we doe therefore hereby further charge and command all Fishmongers whatsoeuer, That they sell and vtter their Fish at moderate and vsuall rates and prices; And that all Justices of Peace, Maiors, Bailiffes, and other Our Officers, aswell within Liberties as without, to whom it shall appertaine, shall from time to time take such Order with the said Fishmongers, that Our Subiects be not grieued by any such inhancement or increase of prices vpon Fish, vpon paine of Our high displeasure, and such further punishment as may be inflicted vpon them by Our Lawes.

Giuen at Our Court at White-hall, the seuenth day of February, in the fourth yeere of Our Reigne of Great Britaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

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M.D C. XXVIII.